Plenary Session Summaries

Wednesday May 25, 2016 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
**HIV and Hep C Foundations-OPTIONAL Pre-Conference Workshop**

Duration: 2 hours

An introduction to basic terms and concepts of how both HIV and hepatitis C affects the body.

Participants in this interactive workshop will learn the basics about HIV and hepatitis C transmission, disease progression, testing and treatment, including new Hep C medications. Prevention messages will also be examined.

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**Plenary Session Summaries**

Wednesday May 25, 2016 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

**Agokwe presented by Waawaate Fobister**

A new work from Ojibwa artist Waawaate Fobister. Agokwe (pronounced “agoo-kway; meaning “wise woman” or “Two-Spirited”) explores unrequited love between teenage boys from neighbouring reserves. Mike is a hockey player and Jake is a traditional dancer. The boys notice each other at the Kenora Shoppers Mall and ultimately connect through a mutual love of movement while Mike is skating and Jake is dancing “like grass blowing in the wind.” They meet briefly at a post hockey-tournament party where they bashfully confess their desire for each other. However, youth, distance and isolation strive to pull the threads apart when tragedy intervenes. AGOKWE speaks to bullying, homophobia, unrequited love, social isolation and the lost traditions of the Anishnaabe.

Thursday May 26, 2016 9:15 am – 10:00 am

**What Services Are Gay Men Looking for in the North?**

Gay/bi/MSM continue to make up a significant proportion of those being diagnosed with HIV in Northern Ontario however, community based AIDS service organizations report few gay/bi/MSM clients. This session will share the results of a needs assessment conducted in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, North Bay, Simcoe County and Niagara region.

*Facilitator: Diana Campbell, Ontario HIV Treatment Network*

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Thursday May 26, 2016 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

**Man Time**

Gay guys use social media apps like; Grindr, Scruff, Squirt, Silver Daddies, Bear Forest, POF etc. No longer Bath House trolling, Bush waking or abandoned Warehouses.... We have ‘menuized’ our tastes in guys using terms such as; no fems, masc, no old guys, twinks, no one over 40, smooth only, hung tops, hungry bottoms, clean, DDF, on Prep, its complicated...let’s make it real.....let’s make it safe... let’s talk !!

*Facilitator: Gerry Croteau, Gilbert Centre*
Concurrent Workshop Summaries

Each workshop will be run twice allowing delegates to attend 2 of the 3 sessions offered.
Sessions will run on Thursday May 26, 2016 from 10:15 am – 11:45 am and 12:45 pm – 2:15 pm

1 & 2 A

Identity and Belonging: Promoting Health and Wellness for LGBT2s Individuals

This workshop will cover the below information in an interactive format:
• Discussion of definition of LGBTTT2sQQIAA: why words/identities matter
• Rupture and repair (non-verbal activity)
• Mental health impacts of fear of rejection, homophobia/transphobia, internalized hate and shame and how to fight it with acceptance, compassion and affirmation
• Discussion: challenges of living in remote communities as LGBTTT2sQQIAA people
• Accessible Resources/creative resources
• Affirming LGBTTT2sQQIAA youth and adults
• How can we be the change in our communities?
• One commitment/one self-care promise

Facilitator: Tamara Robert

1 & 2 B

Some Trans Men Are Gay: Sexual Health Needs and Affirming Care for TMSM

Despite recent advances in trans Ontarians’ access to medical care and social support, few opportunities exist to meaningfully engage trans men who have sex with men (TMSM) in policy and frontline work. Whether you are new to working with this diverse population, or whether you are a trans and/or gay man yourself, please join us as we discuss trans male health, misconceptions, barriers to accessing health and social services, community, and specific issues to Northern communities.

Facilitators: Aiden Kivisto and Joël Xavier

1 & 2 C

What’s with all the hype?? PreP and PeP Workshop

You’ve probably heard new HIV prevention terms buzzing around a lot lately - like PEP, undetectable viral load, and Treatment as Prevention. And with Health Canada’s recent approval of Truvada as PrEP we’ll be hearing even more about this new strategy for preventing HIV infection. All of these strategies have the exciting potential to transform the HIV prevention landscape in Canada and around the world but what do they mean? What do they do? Do they work? And what will it take to get them into the hands of people that need them the most?

This workshop will summarize the best available evidence on the effectiveness of HIV medications as safe strategies to reduce the risk of the sexual transmission of HIV. We will also explore what it’s going to take to ensure that these new strategies are supported and are taken up in the communities and by the individuals that may benefit most.

Facilitators: Phillip Banks, Peel HIV/AIDS Network and Barb Panter, CATIE

For more information about the 2016 Opening Doors Counselling Conference, visit www.elevatenwo.org

Or contact Conference Coordinator, Kari Chiappettta at kcconsulting@shaw.ca or 807 621 6225